

REMARKS

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102/35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1, 4, 7, 8, 11, 12, 16, 17 and 53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Shimoyama et al. (JP 2004-256983). Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by or, in alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Shimoyama et al. Claims 56 and 58-59 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shimoyama et al. Claims 18, 19 and 57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shimoyama et al., as set forth above for claim 1, in view of Tanaka et al. (US 2001/0053646).

The rejections are not proper. Shimoyama et al. (JP 2004-256983), is not an effective reference against the claims of the present application. Shimoyama et al. was published on September 16, 2004, which is after the effective filing date of the present application, i.e., the October 22, 2003, filing date of International Patent Application No. PCT/JP2003/013477.

Removal of the rejections and a notice of allowability are in order and are requested.

The foregoing is believed to be a complete and proper response to the Office Action dated January 23, 2009.

PATENT APPLN. NO. 10/532,082
RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

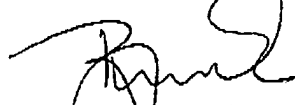
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In the event that this paper is not considered to be timely filed, applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for any such extension may be charged to Deposit Account No. 111833.

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Respectfully submitted,

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